

Surveyor to accept the post of assistant to President J. Edgar Thomson, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and subsequently occupied the same position under Thomas A. Scott, and Mr. George B. Roberts, the present President. In connection with this office he served as President of the following companies, viz.:

- Belvidere and Delaware Railroad Co.
- Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad Co.
- Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad Co.
- Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad Co.
- Mifflin and Centre County Railroad Co.
- Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Co.
- Pomerey and Newark Railroad Co.
- Philadelphia and Long Branch Railroad Co.
- River Front Railroad Co.
- New Jersey Warehouse and Guarantee Co.
- Cressons Springs Company.

He was also a Director in forty-four of the companies identified with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Mr. Kneass was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the Franklin Institute, the Historical Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, of which Club he was President during the year 1881.

He was one of the early members of the Union League, of this city, and one of its Board of Directors from December, 1879, to December, 1883.

Mr. Kneass was married, in 1853, to Margaretta Sybilla, granddaughter of the Hon. George Bryan, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kneass was a sincere Christian, a member of the Seventh Presbyterian Church; in 1856 was elected a member of its Board of Trustees; acting as Secretary until 1872, when he became President. His principles of honor were of the highest character, always just and impartial; as a public officer, most carefully guarding the interests of his employers, whilst at the same time he was mindful of the rights of employes. A warm and reliable friend, kind and generous, his sound judgment caused him to be looked up to by those requiring his advice. His manner was courteous to all, inspiring respect from those with whom he was associated.

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*Note on a possible Geographical Meaning for the Set Griffin. By J. P. Lesley.*

*(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Jan. 4th, 1884.)*

This chimerical animal sits on his haunches, with ears and tail erect, his breast and fore legs being vertical; his back slopes at 45°, and the end of his vertical straight tail is on a level with his head, so that the whole figure resembles a capital Roman letter N.



There is nothing peculiar about the animal except his ears and tail. He is evidently a jackal, fox or dog. But his ears are very long, stiff and straight in the air, diverging; and his rod-like tail is *forked* at the end. He is usually called a *griffin*; by some a *giraffe*.

*Set* was the genius of destruction and mischief, in some radical way connected with the sea, and I believe was the demon of the Red sea. He was the demon of the desert also. The Red sea is the sea of the desert lying between the Lybian and Arabian deserts. Egyptologists are familiar with the varying history of the religious worship of this deity, its opposition to the systems of Nile worship and Osiris worship, and its later fusion with the Sutech-Baal worship of the Syrian immigrants.

I wish to point out a plausible geographical explanation of the original idea of *Set*, derived from the shape of his ideograph.

In hieroglyphic inscriptions running from left to right, the animal sits facing the west, his back slopes south-east, and his ears are often portrayed not only diverging but pointing a little forward, a little west of the vertical. I fancy that a representation of the Red sea, with its two gulfs of Suez and Akabah, was intended; and that its tail was meant to represent the Persian gulf, *forked* to represent the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

A forked vertical tail to an animal so simply constructed in the ordinary shape of a jackal was certainly a most extraordinary freak of fancy, if there lay no hidden meaning behind the design. It cannot be objected that the old Egyptians were not good geographers. The orientation of the pyramids in the fourth dynasty, and the expedition of Hannu to Punt, in the 11th or first Theban dynasty, are in evidence to the contrary. But it is a question how early the Egyptians knew Mesopotamia or Chaldæ well enough to represent its two rivers (the rivals of their Nile) by the fork of a tail to their ocean deity, or otherwise. The god *Set* appears to have been worshiped by the mother of the builder of the first pyramid. The campaign of Kedarlaomer was a comparatively late event, probably subsequent to the 12th dynasty; but it suggests similar movements on a less heroic scale in much earlier days; and no one has yet made out the direction from which the pyramid builders came to take possession of Egypt. It is evident that they introduced a foreign Ra, and Hor worship; but whether they brought with them Hathor and *Set*, or found them in Egypt is not known.

I think the Ata-Teta-nomenclature of the very first dynasty is good evidence that the pre-pyramid rulers had come from Yemen; but the pyramid builders would more likely come in from Syria, and stop at Memphis. If so, they would undoubtedly be familiar to some extent with Mesopotamia, if only through wandering merchants, or, if there were none such, through that transmission of information from region to region which has characterized all ages.